

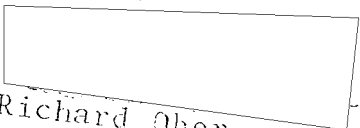
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11 MAR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert C. Mardian  
VIA : Mr. John F. Doherty  
SUBJECT : The Stockholm Conference on Vietnam

1. Attached in response to your verbal request of 10 March 1971 is a briefing paper on the Stockholm Conference.
2. If you require any further information on the subject, please let me know.

Attachment: a/s

  
Richard Ober

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an active role in its decision-making process. In addition, the local North Vietnamese and representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG) maintain regular contact.

3. Going beyond the permanent secretariat, the Stockholm Conference organization has an Executive Committee which meets on an apparently ad hoc basis. Since the original Stockholm Conference in 1967, this Committee has varied in size and membership; however, its hard-core membership, consisting of four major leaders, has remained constant. These leaders are:

A. Bertil Svahnstrom, a journalist and former Nazi sympathizer who is now a leading Swedish pacifist with leftist leanings;

B. Peggy Duff, a leader of the ICDP who espouses leftist and pacifist causes but has also been critical of Soviet actions and policies;

C. Romesh Chandra, an Indian Communist and Secretary General of the Soviet-sponsored World Council of Peace;

D. Alexander Berkov, Soviet representative at the World Council of Peace in Helsinki.

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4. The International Liaison Committee (ILC) of the Stockholm Conference has broader participation and has functioned as the principal planning organization for the six large-scale Stockholm Conferences held from July 1967 to November 1970. Meetings of the International Liaison Committee usually attract world-wide participation; they plan international antiwar strategy; make resolutions calling for future large-scale conferences; and provide a forum for the exchange of views between various international and national antiwar groups.

5. There have been six large-scale Stockholm Conferences: in July 1967; March 1968; December 1968; May 1969; March 1970; and November 1970. Representatives of the American antiwar movement have participated in all of these conferences; their political colorations have ranged from clerical pacifists to radical New Leftists (David Dellinger, Stewart Meacham, etc.) to members of the Communist Party, USA such as Pauline Rosen and Sylvia Kushner. Since October 1969, American representatives have also participated in ILC meetings and some Executive Committee sessions. Their role at these meetings has been increasingly controversial. The American radicals have occasionally offended the old left or more conservative pacifist Europeans. The World Council of Peace representatives, who have appeared to be trying to woo the Americans into the disciplined camp of the International

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Communist antiwar movement, have been unable to restrain them in plenary sessions of the Stockholm Conference. Bertil Svahnstrom has also objected to some of the American tactics, their disregard for parliamentary procedure, and their general disregard for discipline. As a result the Stockholm Conferences have been at times equivocal, or at least guarded, in their support of specific programs of the U.S. antiwar movement.

6. There does not appear to be any element which actually dictates the policies and plans of the Stockholm Conference organization. At the February 1971 Executive Committee meeting, the Soviet-sponsored World Council of Peace failed to win Stockholm Conference support for their planned world-wide demonstrations at 18 March 1971; the American delegate from the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice was equally unsuccessful in getting a whole-hearted commitment from the Executive Committee to press for international demonstrations in support of the May 1971 actions in the United States.

7. Bertil Svahnstrom has consistently opposed efforts to let the World Council of Peace load its conference invitation lists with a preponderance of representatives from Communist Parties or international Communist fronts. Peggy Duff, who is highly unpopular with the Soviets, wields

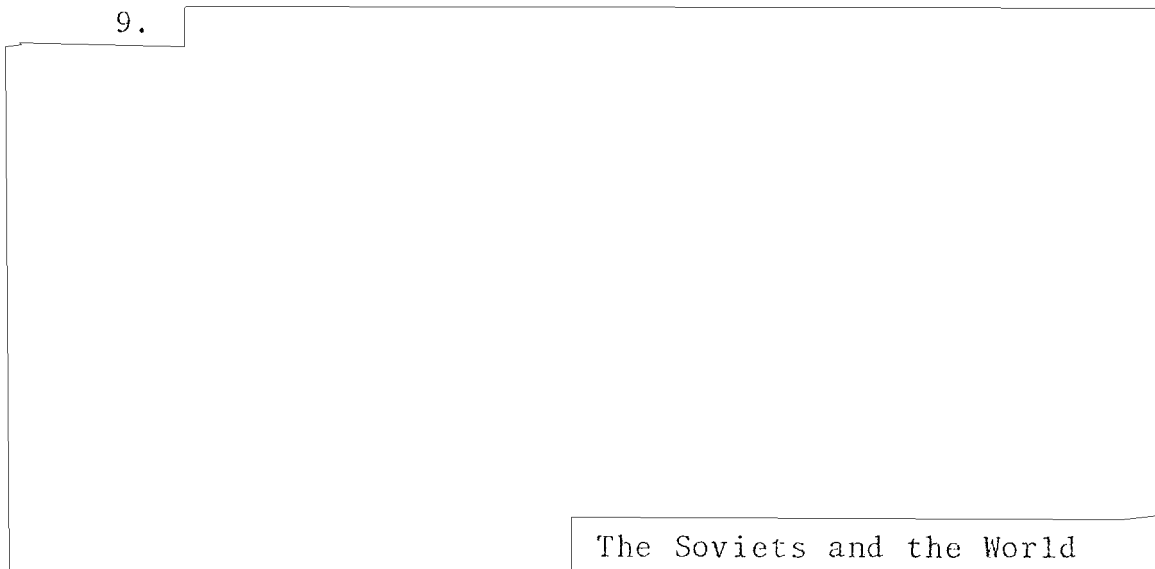
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considerable influence within the policy making group of the Conference. As a result, Svahnstrom has succeeded in keeping the Stockholm Conference organization relatively free of any direct association with a specific political party or movement and has therefore been able to maintain the support of a wide variety of pacifist organizations and prestigious figures (Gunnar Myrdahl, the Swedish sociologist is one example).

8. The Vietnamese have been active participants in meetings at all levels of the Stockholm Conference organization. Recently their role has appeared to be one of mediation among the more radical American represents, the World Council of Peace representatives, and the often affronted Svahnstrom.

9.



The Soviets and the World

Council of Peace have also supported various meetings by providing airline tickets to the delegates.

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REMARKS  

*1. This is a copy of a letter  
sent to the FBI on 10/10/66  
regarding the case of  
James Earl Ray, who is  
being held in custody  
for the murder of  
Dr. Martin Luther King.*

*Robert  
Spencer*

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